

Acton Commission on Disability
Minutes: 03/23/09

Present: Lisa Franklin, John Brako, Gordon Lagrow and Janet Feasel
Also present was a representative from the Sudbury COD.

The COD was asked to take a position on whether a tree was in conformance in violation of the laws concerning walkways access for people with disabilities. At issue was the cross slope of the walkway: "Nowhere should the cross slope exceed one-in 50;" and the walkway surface. The commission voted that the tree was not in conformance with the requirement. At the conclusion of the meeting Lisa was to go the Board of Selectman Meeting and present our recommendation. Lisa indicated that we were only to consider whether or not the tree complied with the code not whether our action would or would not result in the tree being taken down. Apparently this is not the only sidewalk in Acton to have accessibility issues. Some neighbors consider the tree to be a nuisance. Children have to take alternative routes to avoid the tree.

COA Letter Re Parking at Polls

A letter was sent to the Council on Aging advising that with respect to parking at the polls you are not allowed to park in HP spaces if you do not have a placard or HP plate.

Yahoo Forum. Gordon had expressed concern about someone monitoring the information and data on the site. Apparently someone from the COD can be trained to do this. Janet wanted to know if this would be considered to be consistent with our duties as members of the COD. Lisa indicated the COD was asked to take this on by the Chair of the Board of Selectman.

New Website: Laura Mason will work on a new website for the COD. We are waiting to hear back from the Lions and Independent Living Center concerning whether they want to be represented on the new Acton COD website.

The town has a new Social Services Coordinator and Advocate for People with Disabilities: Laura Ducharme. She is at the Town Hall. Her phone is 264-9653.

Kids on the Block Scripts: Janet indicated that Cheryl told her the money for the scripts had been approved, the scripts are to be mailed to Janet's house and Janet will notify Cheryl when the scripts are received.

Brochures: Frank got back to Lisa and indicated that the COD can use the town xerox to print brochures. At the last meeting Brenda had indicated she would find out the cost of paper to make 100 brochures from Quill and Press. The COD voted to purchase the paper for these brochures at the last meeting.

Lisa reminded all that the Board of Selectman meeting to change to three the number of COD members needed to make a quorum is scheduled for 04/03/09.

Miracle League of MA: Lisa reminded members that the local chapter (Boxboro) of the Miracle League of MA is looking for adult and child volunteers to assist in batting the balls and walking the bases. This is a non competitive league that meets at the Blanchard School on Saturday mornings from 05/13-06/17. Contact: Lauren Richardt 978-263-3043.

Respite Care for parents of kids with special health care needs. "Getting a Break A Roadmap to Respite Care for MA families of Children with Special Health Care Needs."

The next meeting will be held at the usual time: the second Thursday in April.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Feasel, Treasurer